



MITCHELL E. DANIELS, Jr., Governor
STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

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Friday, November 06, 2009

To: All EMS Provider Organizations
From: Indiana Department of Homeland Security
Re: Guidance: Use of Paramedic Personnel in H1N1 Mass Vaccination Programs

Executive Director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, Joseph Wainscott, in his podcast addressing H1N1 preparedness, urged EMS providers to be flexible and prepared to assist hospitals, public health officials and emergency managers in activities that may be outside of their traditional roles. EMS provider organizations are urged to work with these entities to mitigate the effects of the ongoing pandemic. This guidance document is provided to address how paramedic provider organizations may assist local health officers in delivering H1N1 vaccinations in mass distribution programs in their jurisdictions. This effort is intended to provide local health officers with additional personnel resources to assist in administering H1N1 vaccinations in health department organized and supervised vaccination clinics. It is not intended to provide a mechanism for Paramedic providers to store or otherwise handle vaccine or participate in post-vaccination follow up care or monitoring. Provider organizations will receive additional instructional material about H1N1 vaccinations prepared by the Indiana State Department of Health.

The H1N1 vaccine is administered in two ways, either by intramuscular injection or through a nasal mist. Paramedics are trained in these methods of drug administration and may be used to administer the H1N1 vaccine by instituting the procedures below:

1. Pursuant to 836 IAC 2-2-3 (k) (2) the paramedic provider organization's medical director may, with local health officers, develop a protocol for the administration of the H1N1 vaccine. The protocol, along with a letter from the medical director stating that the H1N1 vaccine is an approved drug for administration by paramedics under his/her supervision, shall be provided to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security as soon as practicable. Providers are urged to review and utilize **856 IAC 4-1-2 Required components of immunization protocol for administering vaccinations** (<http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/T08560/A00040.PDF>) as a guide in developing local protocols. Documents may be emailed to Gail Fennell (gfennell@dhs.in.gov) or faxed to 317-233-8394.
2. The paramedic provider organization's medical director and provider organization shall provide training to each paramedic administering the H1N1 vaccine. Training rosters, with original signatures of each attending paramedic, shall be maintained by the provider organization. Training requirements shall be determined by the medical director in coordination with the local health officer. Providers are urged to review and utilize **856 IAC 4-1-1 Education and Training** (<http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/T08560/A00040.PDF>) as a guide in determining training requirements.

The paramedics must be in an "on-duty" status with their provider organization that shall have an understanding with the local health officer regarding the administration of the vaccine by the provider organization's personnel.